

PATENT COOPERATION TREA

CAR

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

DOCKETED PCT

To:

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH
& REYNOLDS, P.C.
Attn: Carroll, Alice O.
530 Virginia Road
P.O. Box 9133
Concord, MA 01742-9133
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT AND
THE WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
SEARCHING AUTHORITY, OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

13/12/2006

Applicant's or agent's file reference

3194.1038008

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraphs 1 and 4 below

International application No.

PCT/US2006/029666

International filing date
(day/month/year)

31/07/2006

Applicant

ENTEGRIS, INC.

1. ☒ The applicant is hereby notified that the international search report and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority have been established and are transmitted herewith.

Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:

The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the International Application (see Rule 46):

When? The time limit for filing such amendments is normally two months from the date of transmittal of the International Search Report.

Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO, 34 chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, Facsimile No.: (41-22) 338.82.70

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2. ☐ The applicant is hereby notified that no international search report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority are transmitted herewith.

3. ☐ **With regard to the protest** against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

- ☐ the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.
☐ no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

4. Reminders

Shortly after the expiration of **18 months** from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90bis.1 and 90bis.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

The applicant may submit comments on an informal basis on the written opinion of the International Searching Authority to the International Bureau. The International Bureau will send a copy of such comments to all designated Offices unless an international preliminary examination report has been or is to be established. These comments would also be made available to the public but not before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date.

Within **19 months** from the priority date, but only in respect of some designated Offices, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase **until 30 months** from the priority date (in some Offices even later); otherwise, the applicant must, within **20 months** from the priority date, perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before those designated Offices.

In respect of other designated Offices, the time limit of **30 months** (or later) will apply even if no demand is filed within 19 months.

See the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 and, for details about the applicable time limits, Office by Office, see the PCT Applicant's Guide, Volume II, National Chapters and the WIPO Internet site.

RECEIVED

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority

 European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 940-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 940-9016

Authorized officer

Iveta Bujanska

Rec'd IFD

DEC 18 2006

HAMILTON, BROOK
SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.
(See notes on accompanying sheet)

C8

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220

These Notes are intended to give the basic instructions concerning the filing of amendments under Article 19. The Notes are based on the requirements of the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the Regulations and the Administrative Instructions under that Treaty. In case of discrepancy between these Notes and those requirements, the latter are applicable. For more detailed information, see also the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, a publication of WIPO.

In these Notes, "Article", "Rule", and "Section" refer to the provisions of the PCT, the PCT Regulations and the PCT Administrative Instructions, respectively.

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING AMENDMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 19

The applicant has, after having received the international search report and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority, one opportunity to amend the claims of the international application. It should however be emphasized that, since all parts of the international application (claims, description and drawings) may be amended during the international preliminary examination procedure, there is usually no need to file amendments of the claims under Article 19 except where, e.g. the applicant wants the latter to be published for the purposes of provisional protection or has another reason for amending the claims before international publication. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that provisional protection is available in some States only (see *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume I/A, Annexes B1 and B2).

The attention of the applicant is drawn to the fact that amendments to the claims under Article 19 are not allowed where the International Searching Authority has declared, under Article 17(2), that no international search report would be established (see *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume I/A, paragraph 296).

What parts of the international application may be amended?

Under Article 19, only the claims may be amended.

During the international phase, the claims may also be amended (or further amended) under Article 34 before the International Preliminary Examining Authority. The description and drawings may only be amended under Article 34 before the International Examining Authority.

Upon entry into the national phase, all parts of the international application may be amended under Article 28 or, where applicable, Article 41.

When?

Within 2 months from the date of transmittal of the international search report or 16 months from the priority date, whichever time limit expires later. It should be noted, however, that the amendments will be considered as having been received on time if they are received by the International Bureau after the expiration of the applicable time limit but before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication (Rule 48.1).

Where not to file the amendments?

The amendments may only be filed with the International Bureau and not with the receiving Office or the International Searching Authority (Rule 46.2).

Where a demand for international preliminary examination has been/is filed, see below.

How?

Either by cancelling one or more entire claims, by adding one or more new claims or by amending the text of one or more of the claims as filed.

A replacement sheet must be submitted for each sheet of the claims which, on account of an amendment or amendments, differs from the sheet originally filed.

All the claims appearing on a replacement sheet must be numbered in Arabic numerals. Where a claim is cancelled, no renumbering of the other claims is required. In all cases where claims are renumbered, they must be renumbered consecutively (Section 205(b)).

The amendments must be made in the language in which the international application is to be published.

What documents must/may accompany the amendments?

Letter (Section 205(b)):

The amendments must be submitted with a letter.

The letter will not be published with the international application and the amended claims. It should not be confused with the "Statement under Article 19(1)" (see below, under "Statement under Article 19(1)").

The letter must be in English or French, at the choice of the applicant. However, if the language of the international application is English, the letter must be in English; if the language of the international application is French, the letter must be in French.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 3194.1039008	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/US2006/029666	International filing date (day/month/year) 31/07/2006	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 03/08/2005
Applicant ENTEGRIS, INC.		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International search report consists of a total of 4 sheets.



It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of:



the international application in the language in which it was filed



a translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b)).

- b. ☐ With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box No. II)

3. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (see Box No. III)

4. With regard to the title,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant



the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant



the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(p), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority

6. With regard to the drawings,

- a. the figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. _____



as suggested by the applicant



as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure



as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention

- b. ☒ none of the figures is to be published with the abstract

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2006/029666A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. H01L21/677

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

H01L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 1 343 202 A (EBARA CORP [JP]) 10 September 2003 (2003-09-10) page 7, paragraph 23 - page 8, paragraph 35; figures 4-12, 21 page 18, paragraph 115 - paragraph 116; figures 61-66 abstract; figure 71b the whole document	1-19
X	EP 0 617 573 A1 (IBM [US]) 28 September 1994 (1994-09-28) cited in the application abstract; figures 13-17 page 13, line 33 - page 14, line 15	1-19
	-/-	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubt on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"Z" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

1 December 2006

Date of mailing of the international search report

13/12/2006

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
European Patent Office, P.B. 5816 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2060, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Paidsdor, Bernd

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/US2006/029666

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>VEILLEROT M ET AL: "TESTING THE USE OF PURGE GAS IN WAFER STORAGE AND TRANSPORT CONTAINERS" INTERNET CITATION, [Online] August 2003 (2003-08), XP007901393 Retrieved from the Internet: URL:www.micromagazine.com/archive/03/08/ve illerot.html> [retrieved on 2006-11-30] cited in the application the whole document -----</p>	<p>1, 12, 14, 19</p>

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2006/029666

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 1343202	A	10-09-2003	WO 0247152 A1 13-06-2002
			JP 2002261159 A 13-09-2002
			TW 533174 B 21-05-2003
			US 2002124906 A1 12-09-2002
EP 0617573	A1	28-09-1994	DE 69401023 D1 16-01-1997
			JP 2601990 B2 23-04-1997
			JP 7094577 A 07-04-1995
			US 5346518 A 13-09-1994

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

see form PCT/ISA/220

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY
(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/US2006/029666

International filing date (day/month/year)
31.07.2006

Priority date (day/month/year)
03.08.2005

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
INV. H01L21/677

Applicant
ENTEGRIS, INC.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☒ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☒ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA



European Patent Office
D-80289 Munich
Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx 523656 epmu d
Fax +49 89 2399 - 4465

Date of completion of
this opinion

see form
PCT/ISA/210

Authorized Officer

Paisdor, Bernd

Telephone No. +49 89 2399-5953



WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/US2006/029666

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

- ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
- ☐ a translation of the international application into , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1 (b)).

2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

a. type of material:

- ☐ a sequence listing
- ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material:

- ☐ on paper
- ☐ in electronic form

c. time of filing/furnishing:

- ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in electronic form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.

3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/US2006/029666

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-19
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-19
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-19
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

see separate sheet

Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

Re Item V.

- 1 Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: EP 1 343 202 A (EBARA CORP [JP]) 10 September 2003 (2003-09-10)

D2: EP-A1-0 617 573 (IBM [US]) 28 September 1994 (1994-09-28) cited in the application

- 2 Document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document) a transfer container, i.e. a substrate transport pod and a method for loading the substrates into a pod from an atmosphere of a first process, and circulating a gaseous atmosphere through interior of the pod in such a way to selectively remove at least one contaminant including moisture, particulate substances or chemical substances, and to expose the substrates to a controlled atmosphere intermittently or continually while the substrates are held in the pod before unloaded from the pod and introduced into a second process. The transfer container (1) of D1 has an enclosure, a purifier comprising gaseous contaminant capture medium (6), dehumidifying agent (8) surrounded by a particle filter (5) attached to the enclosure (cf. Figs. 4-11), the purifier configured to purify fluid (i.e. air) flowing into the enclosure and a fluid propeller, i.e. a fan (7) attached to the enclosure (cf. Fig. 71b), propelling fluid through the purifier into the enclosure. D1 also discloses a front opening unified pod (FOUP) having the same characteristics as the FOUP as specified in claim 5 of the present application, including a battery as energy source for the fan (9) attached to the enclosure and the purification material being enclosed in a replaceable cartridge (cf. par. 00065).

2.1 INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 1, 12, 14 AND 19

As can be seen from the above, document D1 discloses in combination all the features defined in all independent claims. Hence the subject-matter of these claims is not new (Article 33(2) PCT).

3 DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-11, 13, 15-18

Dependent claims 2-11, 13, 15-18 do not contain any features which, in combination

with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step (Article 33(2) and (3) PCT).

Re Item VII.

1. Independent claims (which at present do not represent novel subject-matter (cf. and are not clear in the sense of Article 6 PCT (cf. item VIII)) are not in the two-part form in accordance with Rule 6.3(b) PCT, which in the present case would be appropriate, with those features known in combination from the prior art (documents D1, D2) being placed in the preamble (Rule 6.3(b)(i) PCT) and with the remaining features being included in the characterising part (Rule 6.3(b)(ii) PCT).
2. The features of the claim/s are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).
3. Contrary to the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the relevant background art disclosed in the document D1 is not mentioned in the description, nor is this document identified therein.
4. The wording "incorporated by reference" (see p. 1, par. 1, p. 9, l. 15-16, p. 18, l. 4-5, l. 24-25) is usually deleted from an application as it renders the scope of the description unclear (Article 6 PCT). If matter in the document referred to is essential to satisfy the requirements of Article 5 PCT, at least a summary thereof should be incorporated into the description (Guidelines C-II, 4.17). With respect to the current practice the wording "incorporated by reference" should be deleted.

Re Item VIII.

1. The application does not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT, because claims 1, 12, 14, and 19 are not clear.
 - 1.1 Although claims 1, 12, 14, and 19 have been drafted as separate independent claims, they appear to relate effectively to the same subject-matter and to differ from each other only with regard to the definition of the subject-matter for which protection

is sought and/or in respect of the terminology used for the features of that subject-matter. The aforementioned claims therefore lack conciseness and as such do not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT.

2. The vague and imprecise statement in the description on page 20 ("*...without departing from the scope of the invention encompassed...*") implies that the subject-matter for which protection is sought may be different to that defined by the claims, thereby resulting in lack of clarity (Article 6 PCT) when used to interpret them.

Bitte beachten Sie, dass angeführte Nichtpatentliteratur (wie z. B. wissenschaftliche oder technische Dokumente) je nach geltendem Recht dem Urheberrechtsschutz und/oder anderen Schutzarten für schriftliche Werke unterliegen könnte. Die Vervielfältigung urheberrechtlich geschützter Texte, ihre Verwendung in anderen elektronischen oder gedruckten Publikationen und ihre Weitergabe an Dritte ist ohne ausdrückliche Zustimmung des Rechtsinhabers nicht gestattet.

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